



Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, October 26, 2017
301 West Hunting Park Avenue- Library
Philadelphia PA 19140
5:30 pm

Board Member Present: Rev. John Rice, Mrs. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Mrs. Wanda Novales, Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Mrs. Nancy Santiago Negron

Board Member Absent: Rev. Luis Cortes, Ms. Carmen Torres, Mr. Brandon Fuller, Mr. Jeremy Ibrahim

Staff/Management Present: Mr. David Rossi, Mr. William Hopkins, Rev. Danny Cortes, Mr. David Solivan, Ms. Tania Diaz, Ms. Alicia Mojica, Mr. Nate Stringfield, Ms. Kim Chung, Ms. Lori Walinsky, Ms. Rebecca DiSalvo, Mr. Jorge Calixto, Ms. Tania Ramos, Mr. Stephen Casey, Ms. Yesenia Garcia

The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm with 8 members present.

Greetings

Rev. Roger Zepernick welcomed Ms. Wanda Novales, new member to the Board of Trustees.

Approval of Minutes

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 31, 2017 Board Meeting. Rev. John Rice motioned. Ms. Denise Cruz seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Mrs. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago Negron- 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

New Board Member Approval

Rev. Roger Zepernick presented the resume of Asdrey Irizarry potential board member. Ms. Irizarry is the Education Director at Taller Puertorriqueño and has served in the community for many years.

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve Asdrey Irizarry as a new Board Member. Ms. Carmen Rocha motioned. Rev. John Rice seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Mrs. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago Negron- 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0



Disciplinary Subcommittee Recommendation

Rev. Roger Zepernick informed the Board that a Disciplinary Review Hearing was held for students#7214294 and given that the student followed the protocol to resolve the problem it was determined that student would not be expelled.

Ms. Denise Cruz informed the Board that student switched her lunch period to avoid other student.

EAHS- 18

Proposed Student Expulsion – A.R.R. (Student ID#7214294) 10th Grade

RESOLVED, that student A.R.R. *will not be expelled* for a period of thirty (30) days. Student A.R.R. violated the Zero Tolerance Policy by fighting.

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve the recommendation from the subcommittee not to expel student#7214294. Mr. Danilo Diaz motioned. Ms. Carmen Rocha seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Mrs. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago Negron- 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Contract Approvals

Mr. David Rossi presented the contracts listed below:

1. **Nyman Associates:** the administration is recommending the approval of the contract between Nyman Associates and Esperanza Academy Charter School for the providing speech therapy services for the 2017-18 year.

The costs associated to these services are as follows:

- Remote Speech Therapy: \$65.00 per hour
2. **Tamara Jackson:** Independent Contractor, \$30.00 per hour to provide PIMS Coordinator Services. Master's in Business Administration from University of Phoenix.
 3. **Harvard Research Study Memorandum of Understanding:** the administration is recommending the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between Harvard Research Study and Esperanza Academy Charter School for the purpose of conducting a research project. No cost associated with the research project.

The Harvard study is going to research the outcome of students who were not selected through the lottery from 2010 until 2017.



Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve the contracts as presented. Rev. John Rice moved. Ms. Carmen Rocha seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Mrs. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago Negron- 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Personnel Report

Mr. David Rossi presented the Personnel Report and the addendum reflecting the salaries for the new hires. The new hires are as follows:

Elementary School

1. Carter, Kamia; PT Special Education Teacher, 11/16/2017
Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology, Arcadia University

High School

1. *Calixto, Jorge*; FT Director of Instruction, 9/20/2017
Master in Public Administration, Rutgers University
New Jersey Certification; Elementary, Social Studies 5-8, Principal
2. *Carroll, Melanie*; PT School Climate Officer (SCO), 9/30/2017
3. *DeRivera, Audrey*; PT ESL Paraprofessional, 10/9/2017
Bachelor of Arts in Intercultural Studies, Biola University (La Mirada, CA)
4. *Lynne, Jennifer*; FT Special Education Service Coordinator/IEP Writer, 9/2017
Master of Science: Education in Special Education, Elon University (Elon, NC)
PA Certification: Instructional I English 7-12, Mental and/or Physical Handicapped K-12
5. *Vargas, Jonathan*; On-Call School Climate Officer (SCO), 10/5/2017
6. *Gutierrez, Kevin*; PT ESL Paraprofessional, 10/2017
Associates of Science, Northern Virginia Community College

Middle School

7. *Flores, Chelsinys*; 21st Century Tutor, 9/12/2017
8. *Garcia, Belgica*; On-Call Food Service Worker, 9/21/2017
9. *Gonzalez, Rebecca*; PT After School Program Coordinator (MS), 9/11/2017
10. *Mahon, Rebecca*; FT Social Studies Teacher, 9/20/2017
Bachelor of Science in Secondary Social Studies Education, Cairn University
PA Certification: Instructional I Social Studies 7-12
11. *Santiago, Anthony*; 21st Century Tutor, 9/2017
12. *Yangello, Yvonne*; 7/8th Grade ELA Teacher, 9/2017
Master of Arts in English, West Chester University
PA Certification: Instructional I English 7-12

Operations

1. *Casilla, Adriano*; PT Maintenance Worker, 10/25/2017
2. *Gonzalez, Angel*; On-Call Food Service Worker, 10/27/2017
3. *Mattei, Elliot*; On-Call Food Service Worker, 10/27/2017

Substitutes

1. *Gilbert, Felicia*; Substitute Teacher (MS)
Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, Pennsylvania State University
2. *Kaur, Harpreet*; Substitute Teacher (MS)
Master in TESL, University of Delaware
3. *Visentin, Stephen*; Substitute Teacher (HS)
Masters of Science in Teaching, Learning and Curriculum, Drexel University
PA Certification: Instructional I Mathematics 7-12

Staff Departures for the 2017-2018 academic year:

1. Rivera, Silito; PT School Climate Officer (HS) 9/18/2017
2. Kobialka, Matthew; PT Social Studies (HS) 9/21/2017
3. Herrera, Jenloy; PT ESL Paraprofessional (HS) 9/29/2017
4. Espinoza, Ricardo; PT ESL Paraprofessional (HS) 10/3/2017
5. Thomas, LaShanta, PT PIMS Administrator (Shared Services) 10/3/2017
6. Naqrouche, Samira; PT Special Education Paraprofessional (HS) 10/6/2017
7. Santiago, Aida; FT Registrar (Shared Services) 10/10/2017
8. Heuer, Courtney; FT English Teacher (HS) 10/10/2017

On-Leave: We have two staff members are on leave.

Vacancies: Three vacancies presently exist in the high school and they are: English Teacher, Spanish Teacher, PT Social Studies (Long Term Substitute currently in classroom). We also need a Speech/Language Therapist to serve all grades levels.

Staff Transitions:

1. *Ortega, Genesi*: Previous Position PT After School Program Assistant, New Position: FT After School Program Coordinator 6-12
2. *Saez, Carmen*: Previous Position MS Food Service Worker, New Position: ES Maintenance Worker
3. *Lopez, Marieli*: Previous Position On Call Food Service Worker, New Position: PT Food Service Worker (MS)
4. *Maldonado, Jessica*: Previous Position PT Guidance Counselor, New Position: FT Guidance Counselor

Rev. Roger Zepernick called for a motion to approve the Personnel Policies as presented. Ms. Carmen Rocha moved. Ms. Denise Cruz seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Mrs. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago Negron- 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. William Hopkins informed that as of September 30th, 2017 present ratio is 0.47. PSERS contributions is close to \$900,000. The redirection funds were received for the 2016-17 school year.



A finance committee meeting was held last week. There is a surplus of \$227,306 as of September 30, 2017 due to the redirection funds. Funds for the first graders have not been received as the charter agreement has not been finalized.

Mr. David Rossi informed that a Philadelphia School Partnership (PSP) expansion grant was submitted. A call is scheduled for Friday, October 27th to discuss next steps concerning the grant application. The expansion grant will assist with capacity building of the central office and help with the elementary expansion.

2016-17 Application for Charter School Lease Reimbursement PDE-419

A copy has been provided for the Board to review. A charter school that leases a facility is eligible to receive a subsidy reimbursement by the State and is formula driven. That report needs to be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mr. William Hopkins reported that the form confirms the amount paid in rent for the course of the year.

Rev. Roger Zepernick called a motion to approve the 2016-17 Application for Charter School Lease Reimbursement PDE-419. Rev. John Rice moved. Mr. Danilo Diaz seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Mrs. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago Negron- 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Open Enrollment Dates

Mr. David Rossi reported that the Academy would like to hold Open Enrollment for the 2018-19 academic school year starting Friday, September 1, 2017 through Wednesday, November 22nd with a potential lottery date of Monday, December 11th, 2017.

Rev. Roger Zepernick called a motion to approve the open enrollment dates as presented. Ms. Denise Cruz motioned. Ms. Wanda Novales seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Mrs. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago Negron- 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Elementary School Instruction Report

Ms. Kim Chung showed a video presentation of the Back to School Night held Thursday, September 28th. Ms. Chung informed the Board that establishing climate and culture has been the main priority. Some



strategies that teachers have come up with are: cool down corner, bucket filler program, and clear signage with safety reminders.

Strategies to move students forward academically include: promoting reading through the 100 book challenge, weekly vocabulary, and tutoring. The Board and administration discussed strategies for monitoring student progress.

Middle School Instruction Report

Ms. Tania Diaz informed that the Instructional Design Guide was updated this summer and disseminated to new teachers during orientation and all staff/faculty summer professional development.

Students placed on academic probation program have been successfully completing the program earlier when compared to last school year.

Some success stories for this period are: 1) Penn State has partnered with us to expose middle school students to college. 2) The Philadelphia Orchestra performed for 200 high and middle school students. 3) Approximately 40 at-risk students participated in the Mentoring program. 4) The Kimmel Center's Jazz Standards Program was renewed and kicked off October 11th. 5) About 60 middle school students currently participate in SquashSmarts through the Lenfest Center partnership.

High School Instruction Report

Mr. Jorge Calixto reported out that he is getting acclimated to the Esperanza instructional practices. Dialogue is taking place with department heads, Directors of Student Developments, and key staff members.

Attended the Safe Corridor Meeting at Edison High School where he was able to network with other principals.

Some success stories for this period are: 1) Dance Ensemble performed at City Hall for the raising of the Puerto Rican Flag as well as performed at the Puerto Rican Day parade. The ensemble won 1st place in the high school division. 2) Eastern University provided scholarship tickets to female students to attend the Woman Conference where First Lady Michelle Obama was the keynote teacher. 3) Girls volleyball team exceeded expectation as a first year program and is requesting to return as a varsity team in the fall of 2018.

Comparative Proficiency and PVAAS Data Presentation

Lori Walinsky reported out that the peer groups differ due to incorrect low income data. Our high school Literature, Biology and Algebra 1 benchmark scores are the highest when compared to neighborhood schools. The Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System (PVAAS) report has been released and students have demonstrated significant evidence of exceeding the standard for Pennsylvania Academic growth.

CEO Report



Mr. David Rossi informed that a revised charter amendment has not been received. A visit from SRC member Estelle Richman took place on Monday, October 23rd. Ms. Richman toured the high and middle school and students spoke about their educational experience.

The Board and administration discussed charter amendment delay, lack of communication from the Charter Office and the impact on the budget.

Other Topics/Next Meeting Preview

Next Meeting- December 14, 2017 at 5:30 pm

Meeting Adjournment

Rev. Roger Zepernick called a motion to adjourned the meeting. Ms. Carmen Rocha motioned. Ms. Denise Cruz seconded. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Rev. Roger Zepernick, Rev. John Rice, Ms. Carmen Rocha, Mr. Danilo Diaz, Mrs. Denise Cruz, Mrs. Wanda Novales, Rev. Magaly Martinez, Ms. Nancy Santiago Negron- 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Board of Trustees Secretary

Date

Minutes Taken by Yesenia Garcia